



From Battlefield to Street: One Uniform to Another

Currently we are experiencing the largest number of combat veterans since the Vietnam era returning to their public safety departments, having been exposed to intense combat and/or extended military deployments. In Massachusetts alone, over three hundred firefighters have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. This course explores the adjustment issues Emergency Services and Public Safety personnel are currently experiencing, and how to help them manage the challenges they face returning to the streets of the cities and towns they serve.

Community CISM teams are aware that First Responders – irrespective of which uniform or badge they carry, or whether they perform their duties on a full-time, part-time, call or volunteer basis – are at risk of being “triggered” by events in the street which may bring back incidents from their military service. This course integrates the CISM method with combat stress work. Lessons learned from the Civil War through the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan are reviewed.

The course presents a method - the RESTORE protocol – as a phased trauma recovery intervention based on CISM. Students have practicum experience in eliciting first, last and worst “benchmarks” from combat exposure, exploring the soldier’s deployment from beginning to end, and selecting the most significant representative event to be fully debriefed.

The method can be used on a group as well as on an individual basis - sharing knowledge of normal reactions of warriors to combat, forecasting potential symptoms and making connections to critical incidents in the street – as well as how understanding these can provide an opportunity for healing and recovery.

Course #: 200-000-666 A

Date: June 2 & 3, 2009

Time: 0800-1700

Location: Cape Cod Community College
2240 Lyannough Road
West Barnstable, MA

Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, or register online @ www.mass.gov/dfs.

Mail to: Registrar
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
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(978) 567-3200

Or Fax it to:
(978) 567-3229



Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy